

A CALL TO ACTION!!!

Meaningful Parent Leadership occurs when parents gain the knowledge and skills necessary to function in meaningful leadership roles and present a "parent voice" to help shape the direction of their families, programs and communities.

Please recognize, thank or honor parent leaders this month.



Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) is an initiative, which began with Elaine Zimmerman, Executive Director of The Commission on Children. Ms. Zimmerman saw a trend where parents weren't involved because they felt their voice was not needed or appreciated in the community. When asked, parents felt they would and could be involved if they had the tools, skills and information to do so. This began the idea of having parents prepare for becoming community leaders; ultimately benefiting the children in their community.

February 2007

"The power is in your voice, yourself, your pen, your computer and your phone. You can...make a real difference."

Rosalind Adgers, Class of 2000

"PLTI taught me the planning, organizational and presentation skills needed to get this project off the ground. I learned how important it is to reach out to all members of the community for their input and talent. Good ideas go nowhere without the leadership skills to transform them into reality. **Never underestimate what you can do through PLTI.**" Kimberley Fontaine, Class of 2006

Creating a Pyramid of Leadership, One Generation at a Time

National Parent Leadership Month is February 2007

There have been more than 100 graduates from the Middlesex County PLTI. Since graduation, many students have become active in their communities. For example, here are some statistics about PLTI. Our graduates have gone on to become active citizens and advocates for children. Some statistics:

- 12 PTA officers
- 1 Elected Board of Education member
- 3 Board of Education externs
- 5 School Readiness Council Members
- North End Action Team Officers and Members
- Inland/Wetlands Commission Member
- Grads have testified before state committees
- Parents have raised funds for their schools
- Parents successfully advocate for safer roads and bridges
- Grads have started support groups for parents of children with special needs
- Children leaders help those in need
- Close to \$1 million in volunteer hours have been attributed to PLTI graduates

Middlesex County Parent
Leadership Training Institute
310 Hunting Hill Ave
Middletown CT 06457

For More Information,
Contact Christine O'Grady
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Proclamation Presented to Parent Leaders at Common Council Meeting

Council Chambers, Middletown CT February 5, 2007

National Parent Leadership Month

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, meaningful Parent Leadership occurs when parents gain the knowledge and skills necessary to function in meaningful leadership roles and present a “parent voice” to help shape the direction of their families, programs and communities; and

WHEREAS, Parent Leadership is an essential and effective means of strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, The City of Middletown recognizes the vital importance of partnering with parents and assisting public systems, private organizations, policymakers, and other key stakeholders to effectively implement parent leadership strategies; and

WHEREAS, The City of Middletown believes that if parents, grandparents, and guardians understand the tools of democracy, they will actively engage in civic life; and

WHEREAS, Parent Leadership is successfully achieved when parents receive support and training in order to share responsibility for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of policies, practices and programs that affect families and communities; and

WHEREAS, as a result of initiatives such as Parent Leadership Training Institute, School Family Community Partners, the Coalition for Children, Middletown Schools Association, Parent Involvement Committees, and Parent Teacher Associations and Organizations, more parents are developing vital partnerships with service providers, policy makers and key stakeholders to shape policy and build a stronger and safer community for children; and

WHEREAS, the power of parents speaking publicly has made and will continue to make an impact on the lives of community members everywhere; and

WHEREAS, Parent Leadership Training Institute has been the conduit for over 70,000 volunteer hours, twelve Parent Teacher Association presidents, five School Readiness Council members, one Inland Wetlands Commission member, one council member for the Citizens’ Action Committee and many other valued positions through out the City; and

WHEREAS, the nationwide Parent Leadership Month initiative recognizes, honors and celebrates parents for the vital leadership roles in their homes and communities and in local, state, national, and international arenas;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Sebastian N. Giuliano, Mayor of the City of Middletown, Connecticut, do hereby declare February 2007 as Parent Leadership Month in the City of Middletown.

Parent Leadership Training Institute is not a program; it is a *life changing experience*. Students finish their PLTI classroom experience with the knowledge and power needed to prepare themselves as community leaders. *It is a process. You never really end the program. It becomes a way of life.*

The cornerstones of the program are respect, validation, and a belief that when the tools of democracy are understood, the public will actively engage in civic life.